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ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE

BOROUGH OF LYTHAM ST. ANNES

FOR THE YEAR 1947

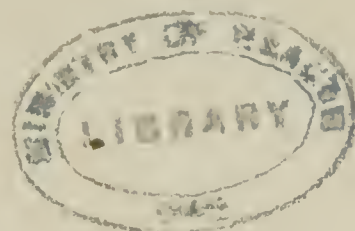
BY

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JULY, 1948.





GENERAL STATISTICS

Area ..... 5,802 acres

Population (Census) 1931 .....25,760

" (Midsummer 1947, estimated by  
Registrar-General) .....31,060

Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931) ..... 6,300

" " " " (Rate Book end of 1947) ..... 8,697

Rateable Value ..... £356,472

Produce of Penny Rate ..... £1,462

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ....	229	204	433
Illegitimate ..	6	2	8
Total .....	<u>235</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>441</u>

Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the estimated  
population) .. 14.1

Still Births: Males ... 7      Females ... 5      Total... 12

Still Births: Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births..26

Number of Deaths: Males ... 256      Females ..271      Total..527

Death Rate ..... 16.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ..... Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age ....	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .. ...	15	4	19
Illegitimate .....	-	-	-
Total .....	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>19</u>

Death rate of Infants under one year of age  
per 1,000 live births ..... 43

Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births .. 44

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	(11)	Rate	.....	0.35
" " other Tuberculosis Disease	(1)	Rate	.....	0.03
" " Scarlet Fever	(Nil)	Rate	.....	0.00
" " Diphtheria	(Nil)	Rate	.....	0.00
" " Measles	(1)	Rate	.....	0.03
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	(1)	Rate	.....	0.03
" " Cancer	(90)	Rate	.....	2.89



CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOROUGH OF LYTHAM ST. ANNES

Causes of Death		1946			1947		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	-	-	-	1	-	1
3.	Scarlet Fever .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
5.	Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ....	4	6	10	5	6	11
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	-	-	-	-	1	1
8.	Syphilitic Disease .....	2	-	2	-	1	1
9.	Influenza.....	3	2	5	-	3	3
10.	Measles .....	-	-	-	1	-	1
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis .....	-	-	-	1	-	1
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis (Cancer of Buccal Cavity and	1	-	1	1	-	1
13.	( Oesophagus .....	3	-	3	5	-	5
	(Cancer of Uterus .....	-	4	4	-	4	4
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	7	6	13	6	6	12
15.	Cancer of Breast ..	-	15	15	1	14	15
16.	Cancer of all other sites ....	16	24	40	22	32	54
17.	Diabetes .....	-	2	2	-	2	2
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	29	53	82	33	46	79
19.	Heart Disease .....	61	102	163	94	72	166
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system .....	4	7	11	6	8	14
21.	Bronchitis .....	18	16	34	15	16	31
22.	Pneumonia .....	4	3	7	7	5	12
23.	Other respiratory disease ....	2	1	3	2	1	3
24.	Ulceration of the Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	-	1	3	2	5
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	-	-	-	-	1	1
26.	Appendicitis .....	1	-	1	-	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases .....	2	4	6	4	4	8
28.	Nephritis .....	8	18	26	11	14	25
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Other Maternal Causes .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Premature Birth .....	2	1	3	5	1	6
32.	Congenital Malformations - Birth, Injury, Infantile Disease	5	1	6	7	1	8
33.	Suicide .....	1	1	2	2	1	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents .....	5	-	5	1	-	1
35.	Other Violent Causes .....	3	4	7	4	3	7
36.	All other causes .....	14	24	38	19	26	45
All causes ... Total .....		196	296	492	256	271	527

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

1. Population

The population of the Borough at the middle of 1947 is estimated by the Registrar General at 31,060; 570 more than in 1946 and 5,300 more than at the last census (1931).





## 2. Births

According to the Registrar General 441 live births - 235 males and 206 females - occurred in the Borough during the year. This is 79 more than in the previous year and gives a birth rate of 14.1 per 1,000 which is the highest rate recorded in the Borough but is 6.4 below the rate for England and Wales and 8.1 below that for the 148 smaller towns.

### Illegitimate Births

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of illegitimate births - 8, of which 6 were males and 2 females, as compared with 20 in 1946. This represents 1.8 per cent. of the total live births and an illegitimate birth rate of 0.26 per 1,000. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 5.5% and 0.65 per 1,000.

### Still Births

There has also been a slight decrease in the number of still births - 12, (7 males and 5 females) as compared with 14 during the previous year. This represents 2.6 per cent. of the total births and a still birth rate of 0.39 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding figures for 1946 were 3.8 and 0.46.

## 3. Deaths

There has been an increase in the number of deaths during the year - 527 as compared with 492. The increase was mainly in deaths registered as being due to Cancer (15); Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory system (6); and that group of diseases classed as Other Causes (7). There was a welcome decrease in the number of deaths due to Road Traffic; only one death being attributed to this cause as against five in 1946. The uncorrected death rate is 15.9 per 1,000; this is 0.8 above that for the previous year; 4.9 above that for England and Wales; and 5.0 above that for the 148 smaller towns.

### Corrected Death Rate

This cannot be given as the comparability factor is not available.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### 1. Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board; the supply has been satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity. Practically all houses in the Borough receive their supply directly from the mains, but some of the larger houses, hotels etc. are provided with storage cisterns.

All water is mechanically filtered; lime water is added to prevent any possibility of action on lead and the water is afterwards chlorinated.

No samples are taken locally but the Water Board carry out monthly bacteriological examinations of the water. Twenty-three samples were so examined during the year and all gave satisfactory results. The pH value of the samples varied between 8.35 and 8.65 and of 11 samples of filtered water before chlorination from the Hodder works one contained 2 coliform bacilli in 100 m.l., 3 contained one; and 7 contained none. Of 12 similar samples from Barnacre works one contained 4 coliform bacilli per 100 m.l., one contained 1; and 10 contained none.

### 2. Drainage and Sewerage

There have been no alterations or extensions during the year.





### 3. Rivers and Streams

The only stream in the district is the Liggard Brook which flows into the Ribble Estuary and is largely fed by ditches which drain the moss on the landward side of the town. Some of the latter are occasionally subject to pollution from the overflowing cesspools of neighbouring farms.

### 4. Closet accommodation

Excrement disposal is almost entirely by water carriage and there are in the Borough approximately 12,348 water closets and 31 waste water closets. At the end of the year there were in use 16 privies and 53 pail closets, all belonging to houses where no sewer was available. The privies are emptied regularly by the Corporation and the pail closets which are attached to farm-houses are emptied by the occupants.

### 5. Removal and disposal of House Refuse

This is carried out on the same lines as in former years. During the early part of the year shortage of staff gave rise to some difficulty and delay, but this has now been largely overcome and a weekly collection has now been re-established. After removal of paper, tins, etc. the refuse is disposed of by burning in a Heenan Froude Destructor.

### 6. Sanitary Inspections

During the year 1,910 premises were visited and 481 defects or nuisances were discovered of which 474 had been remedied at the end of the year.

### 7. Rodent Control

During the year the Rodent Operator made 1,249 visits to premises in the Borough. 216 infestations of rats and mice were treated with an estimated kill of 1,431 rats and 638 mice.

### 8. Factories

118 visits have been made to factories (mechanical and non-mechanical). The following defects etc. were discovered or reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories and in each case the defect was remedied:

Bakchouse not limewashed.....	10
Insufficient sanitary accommodation.....	1
Conveniences unsuitable or defective....	9

### HOUSING

#### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	23
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose.....	52

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.....	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	Nil
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(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	18
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2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.....	Nil
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Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers. (Repairs to 10 houses were commenced 1947).....20

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act,1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners.....Nil

(b) By local authorities in default of owners.....Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:.

(a) By owners.....Nil

(b) By local authority in default of owners.....Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act,1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders.....Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act,1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit.....Nil

The general standard of housing is high for there is much good class residential property. There are however a few old thatched cottages and houses in the older streets at the east end of the Borough, which will be scheduled for demolition as soon as alternative accommodation for the residents is available.

During the year ten temporary prefabricated and 75 permanent houses were erected by the Corporation and 43 permanent houses by private builders and at the end of the year 50 permanent houses were in process of erection, and the erection of a further 75 permanent houses was under contemplation.

Overcrowding: No exact figures are available but there are undoubtedly a number of instances of overcrowding. This is almost invariably due to the housing shortage and can only be remedied if and when a sufficient number of new houses are available.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MILK SUPPLY

#### 1. Cowsheds and Dairies

At the end of the year there were 26 cowkeepers on the register and the approximate total number of cows in milk was 500. The number of retail purveyors on the register was 26 of whom two had their premises outside the Borough.

As has been indicated in previous reports many of the cowsheds fall far short of modern standards. Practically all the cowsheds belong to the same landowner who has intimated that he intends to carry out any necessary improvements as rapidly as existing restrictions permit.

#### 2. Graded Milks

One licence for bottling and 21 licences for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, one for bottling of "Accredited" milk and one for the sale of "Accredited" milk were issued by the Council during the year.





(b) MEAT SUPPLY

1. Meat.

All animals slaughtered for food in the Borough are killed at the Public Abattoirs, St. Annes. The Abattoir is under the control of the Minister of Food, but a Sanitary Inspector is present at the time of slaughtering and inspects all meat. During the year 36 tons 9 cwt were condemned mainly on account of Tuberculosis.

2. Other Foods.

All food shops are regularly inspected and during the year some 642 tinned foods, 7½ cwt of fish and a number of other foodstuffs e.g. fowls, butter, jam, chocolate and bacon were condemned.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER DISEASE

(a) Notifiable Diseases.

1. Scarlet Fever.

During the year 16 cases of Scarlet Fever - the same number as in the previous year - were notified. All the cases were mild and there were no deaths. Nine cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital; the others were satisfactorily isolated at home. The age and sex distribution was as follows:

	<u>5-10 years</u>	<u>10-15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Males .....	7	2	9
Females .....	5	2	7
Total .....	12	4	16

2. Diphtheria.

The Borough was almost entirely free from diphtheria during the year. Only one case occurred - that of a boy aged nine years who had been immunised at the beginning of the year and developed a mild attack in November. There can be little doubt that this freedom from diphtheria is due in great measure to the fact that a large proportion of the children have been immunised.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is available to medical practitioners free of charge and can be obtained from the Public Health Office or from either of the Police Stations in the Borough. During the year 196,000 units were thus distributed.

Immunisation.

Immunisation has been carried out on the same lines as in former years and during the year 323 were immunised as compared with 375 in the previous year. The age distribution is set out below:

Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years	4 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	Total
30	234	19	9	8	17	6	323



In addition 162 children received a reinforcement dose.

The immunising agent used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

In May of this year enquiry was made into the state of immunisation of children attending the elementary schools and this revealed that at least 85 per cent. of these children had received an immunising dose. The percentage immunised was almost certainly higher as a number of children are immunised privately and no accurate information is available concerning these.

### 3. Enteric Fever.

One case of enteric fever was notified during the year. The patient, a male, aged 21 years, was ill on his arrival in this country from the Belgian Congo and had evidently been infected there. He was removed to Isolation Hospital and no further cases occurred.

### 4. Cerebro spinal Meningitis.

One case was notified during the year. The patient, a male child aged 8 months, was removed to Isolation Hospital where he died on the day after admission.

### 5. Acute Poliomyelitis.

During the year 13 cases of definite acute poliomyelitis - 11 males, 2 females - were notified, all of whom were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were two deaths, both males aged respectively 18 and 40 years (\*). Two of the patients were visitors who returned to their homes and information of the final result is not available. The remaining 9 cases, all local children, made complete recoveries with no or only negligible paralysis.

The age and sex distribution of the cases is given below:

	1 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	15 - 20 years	40 - 50 years	Total
Males	1	5	2	1	2	11
Females	-	1	1	-	-	2

The first case to occur was notified on August 6th to be followed by a second a fortnight later. Both these were visitors and as they became ill within a few hours of their arrival they had almost certainly been infected at their homes. No further cases occurred until September 30th when the first of the local cases was notified and between that date and the beginning of December 11 cases were notified. With two exceptions the patients were children of school age and 8 schools were affected. The cases were distributed fairly evenly through the district and except for the two children who attended the same school had, so far as could be ascertained, nothing in common.

\* The patient aged 40 was removed from the Isolation Hospital to a Mental Hospital where he died shortly after admission. At the Isolation Hospital he had been considered a definite case of poliomyelitis but death was attributed to acute Purulent Pericarditis.







## 6. Measles

Measles was slightly more prevalent than in the previous year - 187 cases having been notified as compared with 113 in 1946. The disease was almost entirely confined to the first four months of the year; 168 cases were notified during that period but for the rest of the year the Borough was almost entirely free from the disease. On the whole it appears to have been mild but there was one death, that of a male aged two years.

The age and sex distribution is given below;

	Under 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45 & over	Total
Males	2	16	22	38	6	1	2	-	87
Females	2	19	26	46	6	1	-	-	100
Totals	4	35	48	84	12	2	2	-	187

## 7. Whooping Cough

Thirty cases of whooping cough were notified as compared with 28 in the previous year. The disease appears to have been mild and there were no deaths.

The age and sex distribution is given below;

	Under 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	5-10 years	Total
Males	3	1	5	6	15
Females	-	6	4	5	15
Totals	3	7	9	11	30

## 8. Tuberculosis

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis notified - 29 as compared with 25, and also a slight increase in the number of deaths. During the year 11 deaths were attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis giving a death rate of 0.35 per 1,000 which is 0.09 per 1,000 above the average rate for the previous five years and is, indeed, the highest rate recorded since 1941 when it was 0.41 per 1,000.

The age and sex distribution of the new cases notified and of the deaths occurring during the year are given in the following table;

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Years								
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	5	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 -	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	3	3	-	-	1	2	-	-
45 -	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
	12	11	4	2	5	6	-	1
	23		6		11		1	



## 9. Puerperal Pyrexia

During the year 7 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified - 2 from Lytham and 5 from St. Annes Hospitals. One was a case of sepsis: in the others the pyrexia appears to have been due to causes other than sepsis. All made a good recovery.

### Non-notifiable diseases

#### 1. Influenza

Influenza is not notifiable and information as to its prevalence is mainly obtained from the death returns. As only three deaths, all females, were attributed to this cause during the year, it cannot have been prevalent to any great extent.

#### 2. Cancer

There has been an increase in the number of deaths from cancer; 90 deaths (male and female) being registered as due to this disease. The death rate is 2.89 per 1,000 which is 0.47 above the rate for the previous five years and is the highest rate of which I have any record.

For many years the cancer death rate has been steadily increasing, and while part of this increase is more apparent than real and due in part to more accurate diagnosis and certification and in part to the fact that the population now contains a larger proportion of people at the ages at which cancer is most common, there appears to be little doubt that there is a real increase in its prevalence. Many research workers have been and are endeavouring to discover the cause of cancer, but so far their efforts have not been successful. One can only hope that they will soon succeed as until the cause of cancer is discovered little or nothing can be done to prevent it.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

### Maternal Mortality

For the third year in succession there were no maternal deaths.

### Maternity Services

The arrangements made with the two local voluntary hospitals for the admission of maternity cases remained in operation and during the year 64 cases were admitted to the Lytham and 76 to the St. Annes War Memorial Hospitals. The accommodation for maternity cases at these Hospitals is limited and there were times during the year when it proved insufficient and considerable overcrowding resulted. A new maternity ward is however in process of erection at Lytham Hospital and when this is completed the position will be much improved.

### Ante-Natal Clinic

An ante-natal clinic is held once a month at each Hospital at which cases referred to the Consulting Obstetrician by private practitioners are seen, and during the year 31 women attended these clinics. This is in addition to the weekly ante-natal clinics held by the Maternity Sister at each hospital.

### Infant Mortality.

During the year 19 infants died within twelve months of their birth giving an infant mortality of 43 per 1,000 live births, which is 13 per 1,000 above the rate for the previous year. The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 41, and for the 148 smaller towns 36.







The deaths were all those of legitimate infants; no illegitimate infant died during the year.

The causes of and ages at death are as follows:-

Cause of Death	Age at Death								Total
	Under 1	1-7	14-21	1-2	2-3	4-5	5-6	10-11	
	1 day	days	days	mths	mths	mths	mths	mths	
Premature births	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Congenital defects....	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	6
Gastro-enteritis..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia and bronchitis..	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Other causes....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2

From this table it will be seen that in 13 instances death was attributed to "Premature Birth" or to some "Congenital Defect" and that 11 of these infants survived their birth for less than one week and 7 of these for less than 24 hours.

It is hoped that the increased facilities for the care of these premature born infants and for the ante-natal care of expectant mothers which should be available when the National Health Service Act comes into operation will result in a considerable decrease in the deaths due to these causes.

#### Health Visiting.

This has been carried out on the same lines as in former years and during the year the Health Visitors paid 331 first and 1,240 total visits to children under one year of age; and 1,319 visits to children aged between one and five years. They also paid 126 first and 187 total visits to expectant mothers.

#### Infant Welfare centres.

The two infant welfare centres continued to be held at the Public Offices, St. Annes and the Lytham Baths, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons respectively.

The attendances at the Centres are set out below:-

Total attendances of children under 1 year of age.....	3,532
" " " " between 1 and 5 years.....	1,293
Total number of children who have attended for the first time and who at the date of their first attendance were:	
Under 1 year of age.....	254
Over 1 year of age.....	30
Total number of children who attended during the year and who at the end of the year were:-	
Under 1 year of age.....	206
Over 1 year of age.....	427

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases were notified during the year.

#### Child Life Protection

This work has continued on the same lines as in former years. At the end of the year there were on the Register nine Foster parents and 30 children, 23 of whom were being maintained in residential nurseries. All the premises were visited regularly and the children were always found to be well cared for. In no instance was it necessary to take any action.

